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RTD UPDATES: Foreign Landownership

Data updates from the Resources and Technology Division

Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land in 1993

- Foreign individuals and entities owned 6.8 million acres of U.S. agricultural land at the end of 1993, and U.S. corporations that are 10 percent or more foreign controlled owned another 7.8 million acres.
- The 14.6-million-acre total is up slightly from 1992, but below that reported in 1991, and represents about 1 percent of privately owned farm and forest land.
- Forest land accounted for 48 percent of the foreign owned or partially owned acreage, cropland 17 percent, and pasture and other land 35 percent.

This issue of RTD UPDATES summarizes data from Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 1993, Statistical Bulletin No. 879, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., April 1994, prepared under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA).

AFIDA required all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agri-

culture as of February 1, 1979. Subsequent acquisitions and dispositions of such lands are reported to the Secretary on a transaction basis. This provides the Department with a continuing inventory of such ownership that is netted out at the end of each calendar year and reported to the President and the Congress.

Foreign persons from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands Antilles, and the Netherlands account for 72 percent of the foreign-held acreage, and those from Japan 3 percent, (table 1).

Corporations own 71 percent of the acreage; partnerships, 21 percent; individuals, 6 percent; and others, 2 percent.

The largest number of acres owned by foreign persons was reported in Maine (table 2). Rhode Island is the only State with no reported foreign-owned agricultural land.

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About RTD UPDATES

RTD UPDATES is a semimonthly series featuring data relating to agricultural resources, the environment, food safety, and technology. These UPDATES report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this UPDATE. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about RTD UPDATES, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436.

Trends in Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by Type of Use, 1981-93

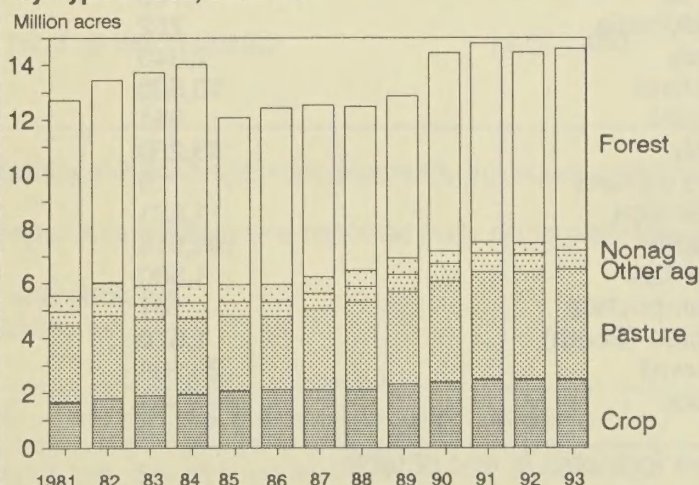


Table 1--U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1993

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
Interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
Argentina	13,394	Lebanon	12,663
Australia	5,431	Liberia	29,632
Austria	56,610	Liechtenstein	133,947
Bahamas	34,692	Luxembourg	4,005
Bahrain	313	Malaysia	7,948
Barbados	117	Mexico	178,235
Belgium	65,526	Morocco	1,035
Belize	549	Namibia	197
Bermuda	73,444	Netherlands	116,611
Bolivia	11	Netherlands Antilles	369,202
Brazil	8,962	New Zealand	13,587
British Virgin Islands	125,961	Nicaragua	1,378
Canada	1,643,527	Norway	5,713
Cayman Islands	36,424	Oman	454
Chile	2,074	Pakistan	968
China	496	Panama	165,182
Colombia	11,414	Peru	308
Costa Rica	13,835	Philippines	3,680
Croatia	1,023	Poland	147
Cuba	20	Portugal	3,996
Czech Republic	350	Russia	761
Denmark	13,283	St. Vincent	2,637
Dominican Republic	2,128	Saudi Arabia	30,498
Ecuador	976	Singapore	504
Egypt	2,134	Somalia	11
El Salvador	128	South Africa	2,473
Finland	22	Spain	3,890
France	132,120	Sweden	54,549
Gambia	294	Switzerland	287,383
Germany	749,818	Syria	2,689
Greece	60,491	Taiwan	7,949
Guatemala	1,102	Tanzania	10,143
Guyana	35	Thailand	1,835
Honduras	1,018	Trinidad & Tobago	94
Hong Kong	14,763	Turkey	38
Hungary	103	Turks Island	3,192
India	1,708	United Arab Emirates	3,930
Indonesia	752	United Kingdom	1,821,310
Iran	2,343	Uruguay	10,807
Ireland	10,508	Venezuela	22,279
Israel	951	Vietnam	152
Italy	83,250	Zimbabwe	230
Ivory Coast	119	Multiple ¹	56,285
Jamaica	1,631	Third tier ²	66,317
Japan	199,915		
Jordan	1,580		
Kampuchea	31		
Korea (South)	1,570	Subtotal ³	6,836,009
Kuwait	20,188		
Laos	31		

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Table 1--U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1993--Continued

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Lebanon	703
US/Argentina	4,507	US/Liberia	26,733
US/Australia	2,408	US/Libyan Arab Republic	280
US/Austria	21,272	US/Liechtenstein	98,841
US/Bahamas	61,354	US/Luxembourg	233,655
US/Barbados	41	US/Malaysia	300
US/Belgium	89,031	US/Mexico	249,783
US/Bermuda	38,986	US/Netherlands	369,802
US/Brazil	14,400	US/Netherlands Antilles	220,550
US/Brit. Virgin Islands	133,340	US/New Hebrides	2,991
US/Canada	1,688,757	US/New Zealand	50,455
US/Cayman Islands	11,969	US/Nicaragua	282
US/Chile	9,929	US/Norway	9,709
US/China	15,589	US/Panama	151,969
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Paraguay	236
US/Costa Rica	407	US/Peru	1,696
US/Denmark	6,998	US/Philippines	7,793
US/Ecuador	1,632	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Egypt	959	US/Qatar	219
US/El Salvador	607	US/Saudi Arabia	10,648
US/Finland	2,282	US/South Africa	2,573
US/France	947,878	US/Spain	4,574
US/Germany	744,734	US/Sweden	7,185
US/Greece	5,249	US/Switzerland	326,529
US/Guatemala	412	US/Taiwan	17,528
US/Guyana	334	US/Thailand	252
US/Honduras	37	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Hong Kong	131,139	US/Turkey	443
US/Indonesia	544	US/United Arab Emirates	3,223
US/Iran	1,861	US/United Kingdom	1,134,074
US/Iraq	800	US/Uruguay	618
US/Ireland	4,655	US/Venezuela	40,269
US/Israel	414	US/Multiple	177,399
US/Italy	22,504	US/Third Tier	386,861
US/Jordan	434		
US/Japan	281,770		
US/Kenya	32	Subtotal ⁴	7,809,451
US/Korea (South)	85		
US/Kuwait	8,330	Total all landholdings	14,645,460

¹ A report is processed as "multiple" when no single country predominates—for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a German.

² A report is processed as "third tier" if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests stated.

³ Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

⁴ Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

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Table 2--U.S. agricultural landholdings of foreign owners, by State, December 31, 1993

State	Foreign-owned agricultural land ¹	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land ¹	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land ¹
	Acres		Acres		Acres
Alabama	447,859	Louisiana	686,203	Oklahoma	58,422
Alaska	75	Maine	2,425,136	Oregon	736,289
Arizona	336,076	Maryland	51,276	Pennsylvania	59,318
Arkansas	188,850	Massachusetts	1,988	Puerto Rico	839
California	920,754	Michigan	205,830	Rhode Island	0
Colorado	642,682	Minnesota	216,646	South Carolina	194,190
Connecticut	881	Mississippi	501,300	South Dakota	42,666
Delaware	5,870	Missouri	76,060	Tennessee	174,591
Florida	620,835	Montana	563,562	Texas	1,185,931
Georgia	577,386	Nebraska	77,101	Utah	55,118
Guam	0	Nevada	285,773	Vermont	121,057
Hawaii	179,960	New Hampshire	149,605	Virginia	112,032
Idaho	22,375	New Jersey	18,572	Washington	386,889
Illinois	193,304	New Mexico	783,872	West Virginia	111,138
Indiana	81,718	New York	273,843	Wisconsin	26,944
Iowa	31,792	North Carolina	227,206	Wyoming	178,728
Kansas	76,202	North Dakota	29,468		
Kentucky	96,501	Ohio	198,747	Total	14,645,460

¹ Includes land owned by U.S. corporations 10 percent or more foreign controlled.

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